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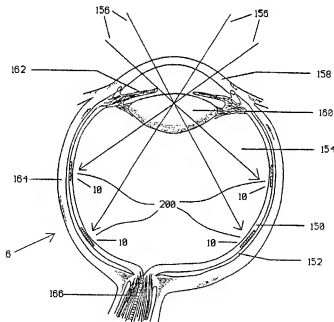
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS FOR IMPROVING DAMAGED RETINAL CELL FUNCTION



(57) Abstract: Methods of using electrical stimulation (10) by itself or in conjunction with growth factors to treat and prevent visual loss due to choroidal, retinal pigment epithelial and/or neuroretinal cell degeneration and dysfunction are presented.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US02/00557

| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| IPC(7) : A61N 1/08<br>US CL : 607/54<br>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC                               |  |  |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>   |  |  |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>U.S. : 607/50, 58, 54, 116<br>623/6.63                                     |  |  |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched   |  |  |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  |  |  |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>   |  |  |
| Category*   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.  |
| X   | US 5,944,747 A (GREENBERG et al) 31 August 1999, Abstract and figure 4.  | 1-7, 12, 15, 22, 28-38, 40, 43, 56, 57, 78-84, 89, 92, 99, 105-115, 117, 120, 127, 133-135 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.                        |  |  |
| * Special categories of cited documents:  | "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention.   |  |
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| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  |  |  |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search<br>30 AUGUST 2002   |  | Date of mailing of the international search report<br><b>01 MAY 2003</b>                   |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br>Commissariat de Patents and Trademarks<br>Box PCT<br>Washington, D.C. 20251   |  | Authorized officer<br><i>FRANCES P. OROPEZA</i>  |
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## C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No.  |
|-----------|--|--|
| X, P      | US 6,393,327 B1 (SCRIBNER) 21 May 2002, Abstract and figure 3A.                    | 8-11, 13, 16-20, 24, 39, 41, 44-48, 50, 52, 58, 62, 67, 71-72, 77, 85-88, 90, 93-97, 101, 116, 118, 121-125, 129 |
| Y         | US 4,628,933 A (MICHELSON) 16 December 1986, Abstract and figure 1B.               | 21, 49, 59-61, 63-66, 68-70, 73-76, 98, 126, 136-138   |
| Y         | US 5,109,844 A (deJUAN, JR. et al) 05 May 1992, Abstract and figure 3.             | 14, 23, 25-27, 42, 51, 53-55, 91, 100, 102-104, 119, 128, 130-132  |